

Appropriations Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
State Capitol
210 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Tarif Brown and I am a resident of the State of Connecticut who currently resides in Storrs, CT as a fourth year undergraduate at the University of Connecticut. The Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission is important to me as it advocates for and fastest growing underrepresented minority group in the State of Connecticut. Myself being an African American, and having been raised in a very financially instable household often resulted in my family and I being homeless with no place to go. As such, I can personally attest to the hardships that many minorities groups have the unfortunate circumstance of being subjected to within the State of Connecticut.

APACC is directly addressing the issues facing the Asian and Pacific American community such as language barriers, legal status regarding citizenship, and addressed blatant acts of racism by unifying a very diverse Asian population. This is truly important as the Asian Pacific American population is very diverse, and subsequently the issues faced by Asian Pacific Americans are very diverse as well. It is due to these reasons why APACC must remain a separate Commission, and not fall victim to your budget proposal consolidation of the Commissions. The lack of representation only hinders the progression of minorities, and thus the Commissions serve as a medium for underrepresented and disenfranchised groups in the state of Connecticut to have a resource of go to so that these underrepresented groups can better succeed in the State of Connecticut.

Therefore, even in times of economic hardship it would be a disfavor to great progress the commissions have achieve thus far. Additionally, it would be a disfavor to every underrepresented group in the State of Connecticut as one Commission could not possible address all the issues of every underrepresented group in the State of Connecticut. The effect would be that the representation of these

underrepresented groups would drastically decline, and the already underrepresented minority groups in Connecticut would have fewer resources available to them to succeed in the State of Connecticut. Therefore, my honorable senators and representatives I as well as many other citizens in the State of Connecticut urge you not to consolidate the State Commissions.

Respectfully,

Tarif Willird Brown

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